

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for restricting placard movement comprising:
 - 2 a. a placard holder; and
 - 3 b. a substantially planar member forming an opening, wherein the
 - 4 substantially planar member has an out-of-plane bend, and wherein the
 - 5 substantially planar member is inside the placard holder.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the out-of-plane bend is sufficient so as to act as a
- 2 spring.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the substantially planar member engages a first
- 2 surface of the placard holder and the placard.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the substantially planar member urges the placard
- 2 against a second surface of the placard holder.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the substantially planar member engages the placard
- 2 and the second surface of the placard holder.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the substantially planar member urges the placard
- 2 against the first surface of the placard holder.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1 further comprising an inner member affixed to a distal end of
- 2 the member, and a stiffening structure affixed to a distal end of the member.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the material of each of the substantially planar
- 2 member, the inner member, and the stiffening structure is selected from the group
- 3 consisting of plastic, ultra-violet resistant plastic, steel, stainless steel, titanium, and
- 4 aluminum.

- 1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the substantially planar member is of a shape selected
2 from the group consisting of a substantially annular member, a substantially polygon
3 member, a substantially shaped member, a substantially quadrilateral member, a
4 substantially circular member, a substantially diamond member, a substantially
5 pentagon member, a substantially hexagon member, a substantially heptagon member,
6 a substantially octagon member, a substantially nonagon member, and a substantially
7 dodecagon member.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the inner member is of a shape selected from the
2 group consisting of an annulus, a polygon, a circle, a diamond-shape, a pentagon, a
3 hexagon, a heptagon, an octagon, a nonagon and a dodecagon.
- 1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the inner member and the stiffening structure are
2 attached to the substantially planar member by their independent means selected from
3 the group consisting of welds, spot welds, molds, snaps, screws, nails, and adhesives.
- 1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the stiffening structure has a bend in its distal end
2 that extends in a direction opposite to the direction that the out-of-plane bend of the
3 substantially planar member extends.
- 1 13. A method for restricting placard movement comprising:
2 a. inserting a substantially planar member between a placard and a first
3 surface of a placard holder, wherein the substantially planar member has an
4 out-of-plane bend;
5 b. engaging the substantially planar member with the first surface of the
6 placard holder;
7 c. engaging the substantially planar member with the placard; and
8 d. urging the placard against a second surface of the placard holder.

- 1 14. A retaining device for retaining a placard in a placard holder comprising:
- 2 a. A substantially planar member, wherein the substantially planar
- 3 member forms an opening, and has an out-of-plane bend, and wherein the
- 4 substantially planar member urges the placard against the placard holder.
- 1 15. The retaining device of claim 14, wherein a stiffening structure is attached to the
- 2 substantially planar member.
- 1 16. The retaining device of claim 15, wherein an inner member is attached to the
- 2 substantially planar member.
- 1 17. The retaining device of claim 16, wherein the inner member and the stiffening
- 2 structure are attached to the substantially planar member at the same proximate end.
- 1 18. The retaining device of claim 17, wherein,
- 2 a. the shape of the substantially planar member is selected from the group
- 3 consisting of a substantially annular member, a substantially polygon member,
- 4 a substantially shaped member, a substantially quadrilateral member, a
- 5 substantially circular member, a substantially diamond member, a
- 6 substantially pentagon member, a substantially hexagon member, a
- 7 substantially heptagon member, a substantially octagon member, a
- 8 substantially nonagon member, and a substantially dodecagon member;
- 9 b. the shape of the inner member is selected from the group consisting of
- 10 a substantially annular inner member, a substantially polygon inner member, a
- 11 substantially shaped inner member, a substantially quadrilateral inner member,
- 12 a substantially circular inner member, a substantially diamond inner member,
- 13 a substantially pentagon inner member, a substantially hexagon inner member,
- 14 a substantially heptagon inner member, a substantially octagon inner member,
- 15 a substantially nonagon inner member, and a substantially dodecagon inner
- 16 member.

- 1 19. The retaining device of claim 18, wherein the material of each of the substantially
2 planar member, inner member, and stiffening structure is selected from the group
3 consisting of plastic, ultra-violet resistant plastic, steel, stainless steel, titanium, and
4 aluminum.
- 1 20. The retaining device of claim 19, wherein the inner member and the stiffening
2 structure are attached to the substantially planar member by independent means
3 selected from the group consisting of welds, spot welds, molds, snaps, screws, nails,
4 and adhesives.
- 1 21. The retaining device of claim 20, wherein the stiffening structure has a bend in its
2 distal end that extends in a direction opposite to the direction that the out-of-plane
3 bend of the substantially planar member extends.
- 1 22. A placard holding device for displaying a placard upon a vertical planar surface
2 comprising:
3 a. a back frame member adapted to be mounted upon the vertical planar
4 surface and including a plurality of adjoining back frame peripheral edges;
5 b. a front frame member having a flat surface portion enclosing an open
6 window area, the flat surface portion including a plurality of adjoining front
7 frame peripheral edges enclosing the open window area, with the number of
8 the front frame edges corresponding with the number of the back frame edges;
9 c. fastening means for mounting the front frame member on the back
10 frame member and including an upstanding lip integral with the back frame
11 member and extending perpendicularly along all but one of the back frame
12 edges, the one back frame edge comprising a rear smooth edge, a groove
13 integral with the front frame member and extending along all but one of the
14 front frame edges, the one front frame edge comprising a front smooth edge,
15 the groove symmetrically disposed for co-extensive engagement with the
16 upstanding lip when the front frame member is mounted on the back frame
17 member;

d. an interior placard holding pocket formed intermediate the back frame member and the flat surface portion when the front frame member is mounted on the back frame member, the placard holding pocket peripherally enclosed by the upstanding lip along all but the rear smooth edge and including an access slot formed intermediate the front and rear smooth edges; the improvement comprising;

e. a substantially planar member, wherein the substantially planar member forms an opening, and has an out-of-plane bend, and wherein the substantially planar member urges a placard against at least a portion of the placard holding device selected from the group consisting of the back frame and the front frame.

23. The placard of claim 22, wherein the placard further comprises; a locking arm integral with and extending from the front smooth edge, the locking arm being generally resilient and having a normal generally coplanar position relative to the flat surface portion for permitting passage of the placard through the access slot and movable from the normal position toward a displaced position; obstructing means on the back frame member located on the rear smooth edge and arranged for engagement by the locking arm when the locking arm has been displaced from the normal position and together with the displaced locking arm blocking movement of the placard into and out of the placard holding pocket; and locking means for maintaining the engagement between the displaced locking arm and the obstructing means while permitting selective movement of the locking arm between the displaced position and the normal position.

24. A placard holding device for displaying a placard upon a vertical planar surface comprising:

a. a back frame permanently affixed to a surface;

b. a front frame member having a flat surface portion enclosing an open window area, the flat surface portion including a plurality of adjoining front frame peripheral edges enclosing the open window area;

7 c. fastening means for mounting the front frame member on the back
8 frame member and including an upstanding lip integral with the back frame
9 member and extending perpendicularly along all but one of the back frame
10 edges, the one back frame edge comprising a rear smooth edge, a groove
11 integral with the front frame member and extending along all but one of the
12 front frame edges, the one front frame edge comprising a front smooth edge,
13 the groove symmetrically disposed for co-extensive engagement with the
14 upstanding lip when the front frame member is mounted on the back frame
15 member;

16 d. an interior placard holding pocket formed intermediate the back frame
17 member and the flat surface portion when the front frame member is mounted
18 on the back frame member, the placard holding pocket peripherally enclosed
19 by the upstanding lip along all but the rear smooth edge and including an
20 access slot formed intermediate the front and rear smooth edges; the
21 improvement comprising;

22 e. a substantially planar member, wherein the substantially planar
23 member forms an opening, and has an out-of-plane bend, and wherein the
24 substantially planar member urges a placard against at least a portion of the
25 placard holding device selected from the group consisting of the back frame
26 and the front frame.